



Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

MCDHH NEWS

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Deaf and Hard of Hearing
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Governor Bob Holden Signs HB 1783

Left to Right: Senator Larry Rohrbach, Secretary to Representative Danielle Moore, Representative Jenee Lowe, Governor Bob Holden (seated), Dr. Roy Miller, Kim Davis, Antonina Wilson, Donald Benfield, Leslie Hall, and Steve Hamerdinger.

MCD Is Now MCDHH

On July 2, Governor Bob Holden signed into law House Bill 1783, which officially changed the name of the Missouri Commission for the Deaf to the "Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing." The law and the new name became effective on August 28. The MCDHH staff welcomes this change, and looks forward to continuing its efforts to improve the quality of life of all Missourians with hearing loss, be they Deaf, oral deaf, late-deafened, deaf-blind or hard of hearing.

Roger Brown Leaves MCDHH

After almost nine years of service to the Missouri Commission for the Deaf, Roger Brown resigned from his position as Executive Assistant / Staff Interpreter effective September 15. Roger has joined Communication Services for the Deaf (CSD) in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where his interpreting skills will face many new challenges. The staff at MCDHH will miss Roger tremendously, and we hope that everyone will join us in sending him "Best Wishes" for his future vocational endeavors and personal happiness.

The "Grapevine" Is Gone The "NEWS" Is Here

When the name of the Commission was formally changed to the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, it necessitated many changes around the office. In particular, anything that had either the name or the logo of the Commission on it had to be changed (if possible). But at the same time, while these "necessary" changes were being made, the MCDHH staff considered it a good opportunity to ask if some other changes perhaps might be "desirable" though not "necessary." After much discussion, and after polling the commissioners, it was decided that it was time to give the *Grapevine* a new name and a new face. So, as of now, the *Commissioners' Grapevine* is a part of history. Instead, the newsletter of MCDHH has been given the simple, yet descriptively accurate, name of **MCDHH NEWS**, and it has been redesigned into a new and completely different layout. We hope that you enjoy the new format, and the pictures that it brings with it.

Commissioners' Grapevine



Grapevine in MS Word Format

MCDHH Website "Missouri Coming Events Bulletin Board"

MCDHH has a "Missouri Coming Events Bulletin Board" on its website. The Bulletin Board is for the posting of events to be held anywhere in the State of Missouri that are related to the needs or activities of people who are deaf and hard of hearing. This requirement will be construed broadly, and MCDHH will post announcements concerning events such as meetings, parties, picnics, silent weekends, interpreter workshops, and so forth. Use of the Bulletin Board is free, and everyone is invited to use it. Please visit the MCDHH website in order to learn how to post your events on the Bulletin Board, or if you have questions contact Donald Benfield at the MCDHH office (dbenfiel@mail.state.mo.us.)



"MCDHH NEWS" Now Available Via E-Mail and On the MCD Website

The **MCDHH NEWS** is now available in an electronic version via e-mail to those individuals who wish to receive it in that form. The **MCDHH NEWS** can be sent to you as either a Microsoft Publisher file or a PDF file. The **MCDHH NEWS** is also available for reading or downloading from our website. In addition, it will continue to be distributed in hard-copy form through the U.S. Postal Service to individuals who prefer to receive it that way. Please contact Ameir Smith (asmith1@mail.state.mo.us) at the MCDHH office and give him your e-mail address if you would prefer to receive future issues of the **MCDHH NEWS** via e-mail.

Mary Luebke Appointed To BCI

The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is pleased to announce that on July 25th Governor Bob Holden appointed Mary Luebke, 10 Deer Valley Court, Florissant, Missouri, to the Board for Certification of Interpreters (BCI). Ms. Luebke is the Coordinator of the Deaf Communications Program/Interpreter Training Program and an Assistant Professor at Florissant Valley Community College. She is on the adjunct faculty of Washington University, and she is the director of Communicate Plus, an event interpreter service in St. Louis. Ms. Luebke is also the resident interpreter for several major entertainment venues, including the St. Louis Repertory Theatre, the Municipal Theatre of St. Louis, the St. Louis Symphony, and the Opera Theatre of St. Louis. She is an MICS and RID certified interpreter, and is a member of the Conference of Interpreter Trainers (CIT), the Missouri Association of the Deaf (MoAD), the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), and the American Association for Theater Accessibility. The MCDHH staff welcomes Ms. Luebke to the BCI, and looks forward to working with her in her new role.

Show-Me Loans Available For Purchase Of Assistive Technology

The Show-Me Loans Program of Missouri Assistive Technology provides low-interest loans to eligible persons with disabilities in Missouri and their family members in order to purchase assistive technology. Assistive Technology is equipment or devices that help maintain or improve the independence of a person with a disability, and include such things as hearing aids, doorbell ringers, visual fire alarms and smoke detectors (home modifications), and emergency vehicle warning devices for automobiles (vehicle modifications). From \$500 to \$10,000 may be borrowed through the program. The maximum interest rate for Show-Me Loans will be 1% below the prime interest rate. To be eligible, an applicant's annual adjusted gross income must be \$60,000 or less. For more information, contact:

Show-Me Loans
Missouri Assistive Technology
4731 Cochise, Suite 114
Independence, MO 64055

E-mail to matpmo@swbell.net or phone either (866) 850-3379 (Voice) or (800) 647-8558 (TTY), or send a fax to (816) 373-9314.

2002 Deaf Awareness Weekend At Silver Dollar City

MCDHH returned to Silver Dollar City (SDC) on September 14-15 for its second annual Deaf Awareness Weekend. The park featured over 100 artisans and musicians on that weekend, as SDC again plays host to the Festival of American Music and Craftsmanship during their fall season. The Stihl Timbersports Finals were also held on that Saturday. MCDHH was pleased that the Missouri Association of the Deaf, Relay Missouri, and Arkansas Sources for Independent Living were able to join us with exhibit booths. Although the rain put a slight damper on late afternoon festivities, the rest of the day was gorgeous. We want to thank all of the interpreters who volunteered their time to make the SDC shows accessible to our deaf and hard of hearing attendees.

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Gary Sanderson To Keynote At Missouri Statewide Interpreters Conference

This year's Missouri Statewide Interpreters Conference will be held at Tan-Tar-A Resort at Lake of the Ozarks on October 18-20, 2002. The keynote speaker for the conference will be Gary Sanderson. Gary works at California State University, Northridge in the National Center on Deafness as the Coordinator of the Western Region Outreach Center & Consortia. He served three terms as the President of the

He has written articles, appeared in videos on Repetitive Motion Injuries and Educational Interpreting....

Southern California Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). He has served at the national level as the Region V Representative on the RID Board, as the Co-Chair of the RID/Council on Education of the Deaf Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Educational Interpreter Certification Standards, as the RID representative to the National Task Force on Educational Interpreting, and as the Chair of the Professional Standards Committee. He has written articles, appeared in videos on

Repetitive Motion Injuries and Educational Interpreting, and was instrumental in the establishment of the Special Interest Group in RID for Educational Interpreters. In 1998 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award for a lifetime of service to the field of interpretation by Region V of RID. Gary is the co-chair of the NAD-RID National Council on Interpreting and often speaks at national meetings. In 1999, he was awarded one of the first Judie Husted Awards for dedication and commitment to the field of sign language interpretation by RID.

Steve Hamerdinger Will Have The Final Say At Interpreters Conference

Steve Hamerdinger will provide the endnote speech at this year's Missouri Statewide Interpreters Conference. Steve will bring to our conference a knowledge of interpreting history as

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it has evolved in Missouri, a dry wit, the sometimes sharp perspective of an experienced gladiator in the embattled arena of deaf services, the virtuosity of a seasoned presenter, and a

dimpled smile that often hides the linguistic ferocity of a tiger. Whatever else happens, his speech is bound to be entertaining, provocative, and memorable.

Happy Folks At Silver Dollar City



Hollye Gurley, Robin Rinkenbaugh, Karyn Houston, Kim Davis, Matt Gwynn and Paul Blicharz "swapping lies" and enjoying the beautiful day in front of the MCDHH exhibit at Silver Dollar City.

2002 MCDHH Legislative Forum

The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) is pleased to announce that it will host a special "Legislative Forum" for people with hearing loss in conjunction with this year's Missouri Statewide Interpreters Conference. The forum will focus exclusively on initiatives that MCDHH will possibly pursue in the 2003 legislative session. We will share our likely legislative agenda, seek participant feedback regarding that agenda, listen to your suggestions concerning other possible legislative issues, and ask you to help us prioritize our efforts. This will be an opportunity for all persons with hearing loss to meet together and assist MCDHH in constructing a legislative program that will enhance the lives of all deaf and hard of hearing citizens of Missouri.

The 2002 MCDHH Legislative Forum will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Tan-Tar-A Resort and Spa at the Lake of the Ozarks in Osage Beach, Missouri. The Legislative Forum will be free for everyone, but all participants will be asked to register at the door. Registration will be required in order to provide MCDHH with contact information necessary to expand its legislative advocacy network. MCDHH will provide both sign language interpreters and real-time captioning (CART) for communications access.

MCDHH Website Has Moved

Are you tired of trying to remember the long and complicated address of the MCDHH website? If so, then we have some good news. The website has moved to a new server and the address is much simpler to remember. Effective immediately, the address for the MCDHH website is <http://mcdhh.state.mo.us>. Please visit our website and let us know if you have any problems accessing it..

2002 MCDHH Empowerment Symposium

The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is pleased to announce that the program for its 2002 "Empowerment Symposium" will focus on the "Legal Rights of Deaf and Hard of Hearing People." We are delighted to have as presenters at this year's symposium three very special guests. Josh Mendelsohn is a deaf attorney who works for the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, DC. Howard Rosenblum is a deaf attorney who currently works for Equip for Equality, the designated Protection and Advocacy organization in Illinois, and is a co-founder of the Midwest Center for Law and the Deaf in Chicago. Our last guest is Phyllis Launius who works for the Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator. In general, the Empowerment Symposium will focus on the rights of deaf and hard of hearing people under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), with some special attention being given to your rights in the courtroom.

2002 "Empowerment Symposium" will focus on the "Legal Rights of Deaf and Hard of Hearing People."

The "MCDHH Empowerment Symposium" was formerly called "Deaf Empowerment." The name has been changed this year in order to clearly indicate that the program is open to and of potential benefit to all deaf and hard of hearing people. We hope that you will attend this year's Empowerment Symposium, and that you will bring along a friend or two. The Empowerment Symposium is free to everyone, and both sign language interpreters and real-time captioning (CART) will be provided. This year's MCDHH Empowerment Symposium will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2002, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Tan-Tar-A Resort and Spa at Lake of the Ozarks in Osage Beach, Missouri.

Executive Assistant / Staff Interpreter Position Available At MCDHH

MCDHH now has an immediate opening for an Executive Assistant / Staff Interpreter. In the role of staff interpreter, the person selected for this position will be responsible for providing advanced interpreting services for the Executive Director of the MCDHH and other deaf staff members. The staff interpreter facilitates communication exchanges involving MCDHH staff members in a variety of settings and with a wide range of individuals and groups, including legislators, Commission members, deaf and hard of hearing consumers, members of the Board for Certification of Interpreters, students, teachers, other professionals and service providers who work with persons with hearing loss, as well as members of the general public. This position requires strict adherence to established principles of ethical conduct for interpreters, including maintenance of absolute confidentiality.

This may be the perfect job for someone who wants the challenges of being a staff interpreter....

In the role of executive assistant, the person

selected for this position will have many opportunities to broaden their work experience beyond interpreting. The duties may include such things as grant writing, newsletter editing, student intern supervision, graphics design, promotional materials development, and case management activities.

This may be the perfect job for someone who wants the challenges of being a staff interpreter, wants the opportunity to develop various skills beyond just interpreting, wants a competitive salary with a regular paycheck, wants a generous package of state-paid benefits, and wants a job with regular hours and pleasant office colleagues. For more information, please contact Dr. Roy E. Miller by either phoning the MCDHH office or sending e-mail to remiller@mail.state.mo.us.

"Current Relay Issues" Series

MCDHH and Relay Missouri are collaborating in a series of public meetings this fall concerning "Current Issues in Telecommunications Relay Services." Meetings are being planned for ten different cities around the state, and two have already been held (St. Louis and Springfield). Each meeting follows the same general format. Matt Gwynn, the Account Manager for Relay Missouri, provides information about two new Relay Missouri services, namely, Internet Protocol Relay (IP Relay) and Video Relay Services (VRS). This is followed by Kim Davis, the

MCDHH and Relay Missouri are collaborating in a series of public meetings this fall concerning "Current Issues in Telecommunications Relay Services."

M C D H H
Workshop/
Training
Specialist,
discussing
the Federal

Communications Commission (FCC) and how consumers can file complaints about relay services. The program ends with Dr. Roy Miller, the Executive Director of MCDHH, discussing the role of the Relay Missouri Advisory Committee (RMAC), the bidding process for relay vendors, and how consumers can affect the nature and quality of relay services in their state. As future cities are selected for the series, and dates are firmed up, that information will be posted on the MCDHH web site.

How Do You Like It?

The MCDHH newsletter is a "works in progress," and as we continue its development there will certainly be more changes. The staff here at MCDHH is very interested in receiving your feedback regarding the new **MCDHH NEWS**. Please call or e-mail Donald Benfield with your comments (dbenfiel@mail.state.mo.us).

MCDHH Literature Available

Over the past year the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has noticeably improved its collection of written resource materials. We have tried to broaden both the scope and quantity of those materials so that they include information of interest to all sectors of the deaf and hard of hearing population. For example, visitors to the MCDHH office can now browse through magazines from any of the following national organizations: the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf (**The Frat**), Association of Late-Deafened Adults (**ALDA News**), Cochlear Implant Association, Inc. (**Contact**), Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (**Hearing Loss**), Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (**Views**), National Association of the Deaf (**NADmag**), American Society for Deaf Children (**The Endeavor**), Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (**Volta Voices and The Volta Review**), Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center (**Odyssey**), and TDI (**The GA-SK**).

Furthermore, MCDHH has available the latest issues of newsletters from a variety of State Commissions and organizations related to hearing loss. People are most welcome to come to the MCDHH office, relax in our visitor's lounge, and review newsletters from Independent Living Centers in different Missouri cities (such as Joplin, St. Joseph, Warrensburg, Jefferson City and Cape Girardeau), State Commissions in numerous states (such as Virginia, West Virginia, Arizona, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Jersey and Nebraska), and other organizations related to hearing loss (such as the St. Louis Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, International Hearing Dog, Inc., the Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals, RERC on Hearing Enhancement of Gallaudet University, and the National Deaf Academy).

In addition to various magazines and newsletters, MCDHH also has brochures, flyers, monographs and other literature concerning a great variety of organizations, technology and topics related to hearing loss, including materials about the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); Gallaudet University; Postsecondary Education Programs Network (PEPNet); National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID); Missouri Association of the Deaf (MoAD); Missouri Deaf-Blind Association; The Whole Person; The L.E.A.D. Institute; Advent Enterprises; Access Interpreter Referral Service (AIRS); Columbia Interpreting Services (CIS); The SPREAD Foundation Interpreter Referral Service; Deaf Way; Relay Missouri; Telecommunications Access Program (TAP); William Woods University (ITP); Florissant Valley Community College (ITP); Moog Center for Deaf Education; Missouri School for the Deaf; St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf; Central Institute for the Deaf; pagers; cell phones; captioning; hearing aids; sign language; cochlear implants; neurofibromatosis (NF); the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

...we have a little bit of information about a great many things, and a whole lot of information about some things.

In sum, we have a little bit of information about a great many things, and a whole lot of information about some things. All of our information resources are available at our office for reading and/or copying at any time. If your organization publishes a magazine, newsletter, flyer or brochure, and it is of potential interest to persons with hearing loss, please add MCDHH to your mailing list, and we will be happy to display your information in our office.

Call Kim If You Need A Workshop

Please contact Kim Davis, the MCDHH Workshop / Training Specialist if you are interested in having her present a workshop or training session in your area. Kim can be contacted by calling (800) 796-6499 (TTY/V) or sending e-mail to kjdavis@mail.state.mo.us.

Subscribe to MCDHH-L

MCDHH maintains a listserve called MCDHH-L, which is used only for the dissemination of MCDHH announcements and action alerts. So, if you are willing to help MCDHH advocate for people with hearing loss and want to receive our action alerts, or if you simply want to get occasional announcements from MCDHH in electronic form, send your full name and e-mail address to MCDHH@mail.state.mo.us with a request to be added to MCDHH-L.

Governor Signs HB1715



After signing HB1715, Governor Bob Holden “listens” to Antonina Wilson expressing her thanks on behalf of deaf and hard of hearing people. HB 1715 requires that interpreters be provided in proceedings concerning the well-being of a deaf person within a juvenile detention or correction facility.



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